



2017 RELIGIOUS SUPPORT HOMILETICS SMARTBOOK C-4

Chaplain (Major) Aaron Swartz, US Army Chaplain Center & School, 1 February 2017

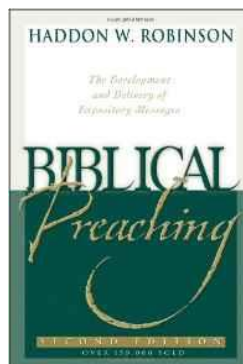
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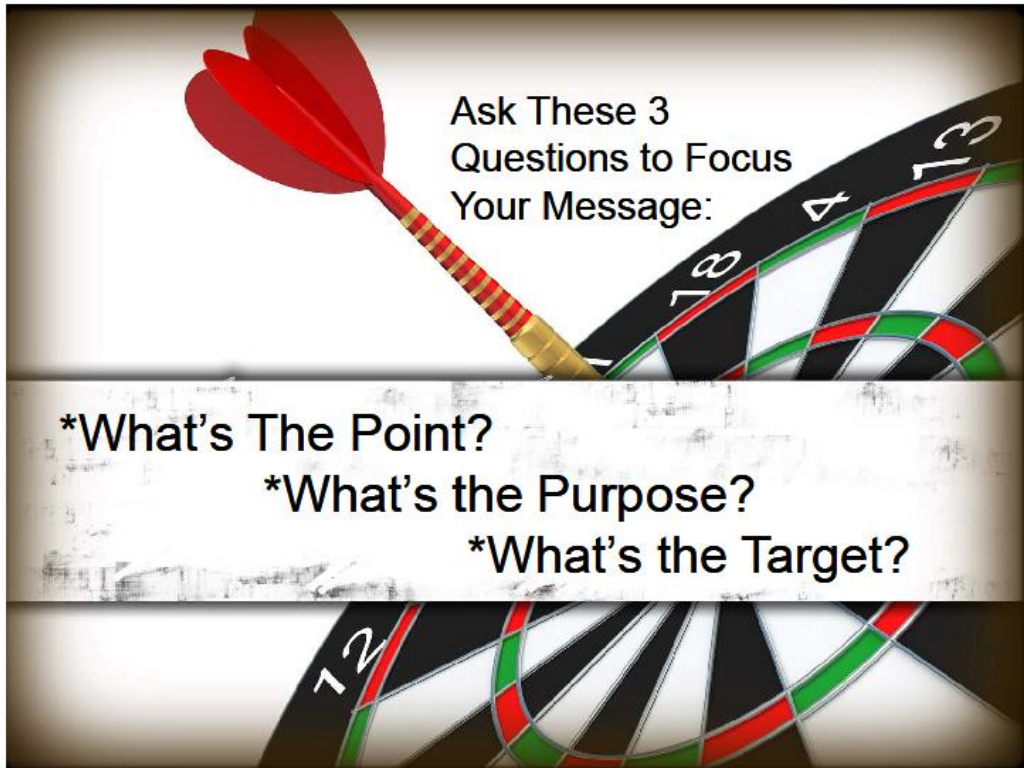
THE BIG IDEA

A sermon should be a *bullet*, not buckshot. Ideally each sermon is the explanation, interpretation, or application of a ***single dominant idea*** supported by other ideas, all drawn from one passage or several passages of Scripture.

Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, p. 35



Focus Questions



All three of these questions can help you to focus your message and get your 'Big Idea' across to your audience. Always remember that your sermon should be concise, clear, and directed toward a specific audience.

Forming the Idea

So how do you form a clear and concise idea? You can use the 'Subject and Complement' from Haddon Robinson.

Subject? (What is the author talking about?)

Behind every subject there is a question either stated or implied.

Complement: (What exactly am I saying about what I am talking about?) The answer to the question that the author is raising.

It **completes** the Subject or answers the Subject question to form the Idea.

Subject + Complement = Idea

(Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*, p.41)

(EXAMPLE)

Subject + Complement = Idea

Psalms 32:1-2

Subject (Question): Who does the psalmist say is a blessed person?

Complement (Answer): The honest individual whose sins the Lord has forgiven.

Exegetical Idea: *The psalmist says a blessed person is a honest individual whose sins the Lord has forgiven.*

Homiletical Idea: *Blessed when forgiven.*

STRUCTURE

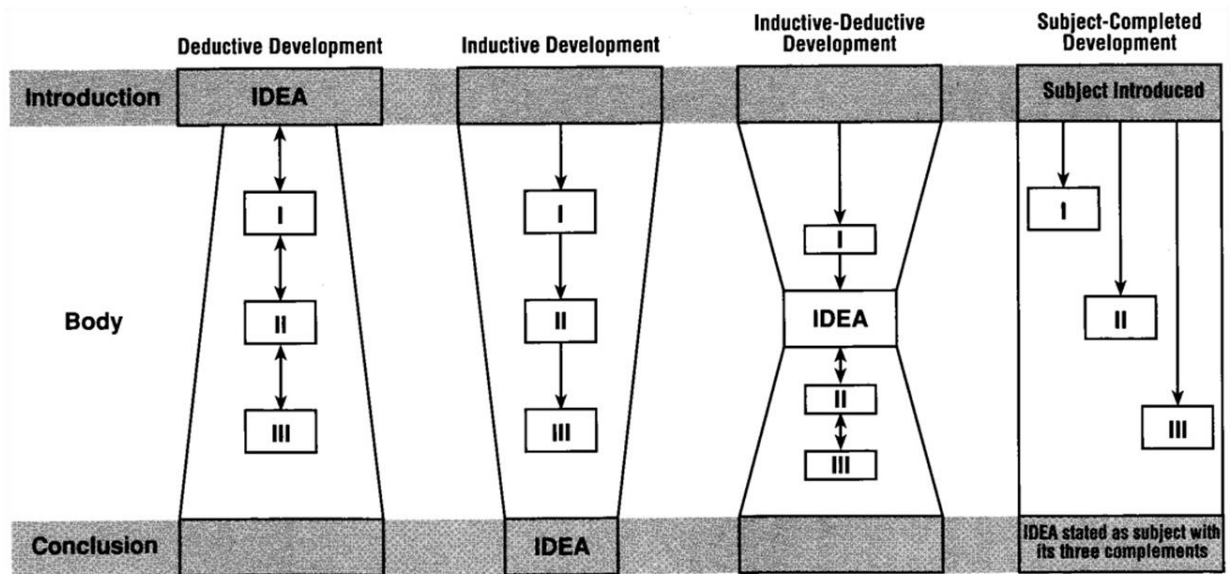
How do you want to present the idea?

What will the shape of the sermon take?

Examples

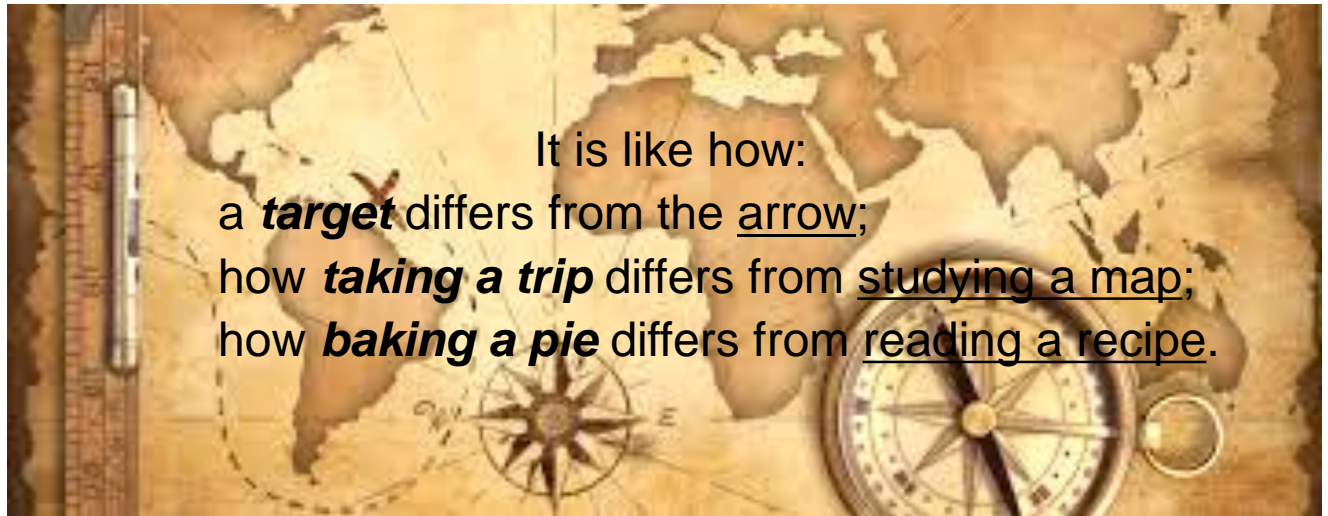
Deductive, Inductive, Hybrid, Subject Completed

FOUR BASIC FORMS



PURPOSE OF SERMON

A purpose differs from an idea since the idea states the truth whereas the purpose defines how the truth should be accomplished.



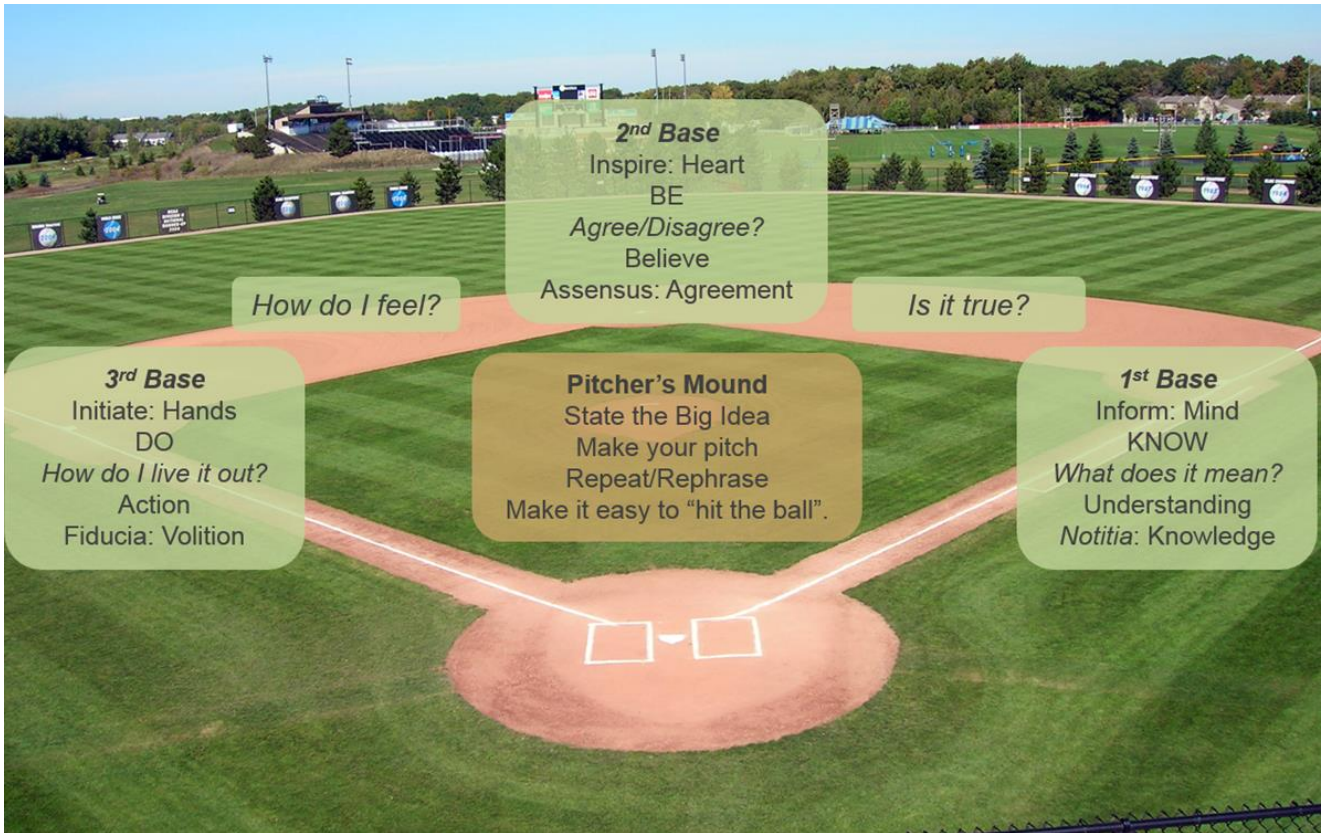
It is like how:
a **target** differs from the arrow;
how **taking a trip** differs from studying a map;
how **baking a pie** differs from reading a recipe.

Three Developmental Questions

- 1) What does this mean?
- 2) Is this true? Do I believe it?
- 3) So What? What difference does it make?

The questions are systemized to flow in this order. If the audience does not know what it means then they will not know if it could be true. Just as if they know what it means and know it to be true, but it doesn't matter to them then they won't care to listen. (See 'Running the Bases' on next page)

Running the Bases



TIPS FOR ILLUSTRATIONS

Ask the questions,

- “What am I illustrating?”
- What is the best way to support the point I am making?
- What makes an illustration powerful?
- What are ways to illustrate based on my point and purpose? (i.e. personal story, news clip, video)
- Is the illustration too powerful or does it distract from my point? (Don’t allow the illustration to overshadow the ‘big idea’.

Each of these questions will help you to add illustrations that are appropriate, relevant, and timely. Never allow the illustration to overshadow everything that you are about to say. Illustrations illustrate the point, not take over the sermon.

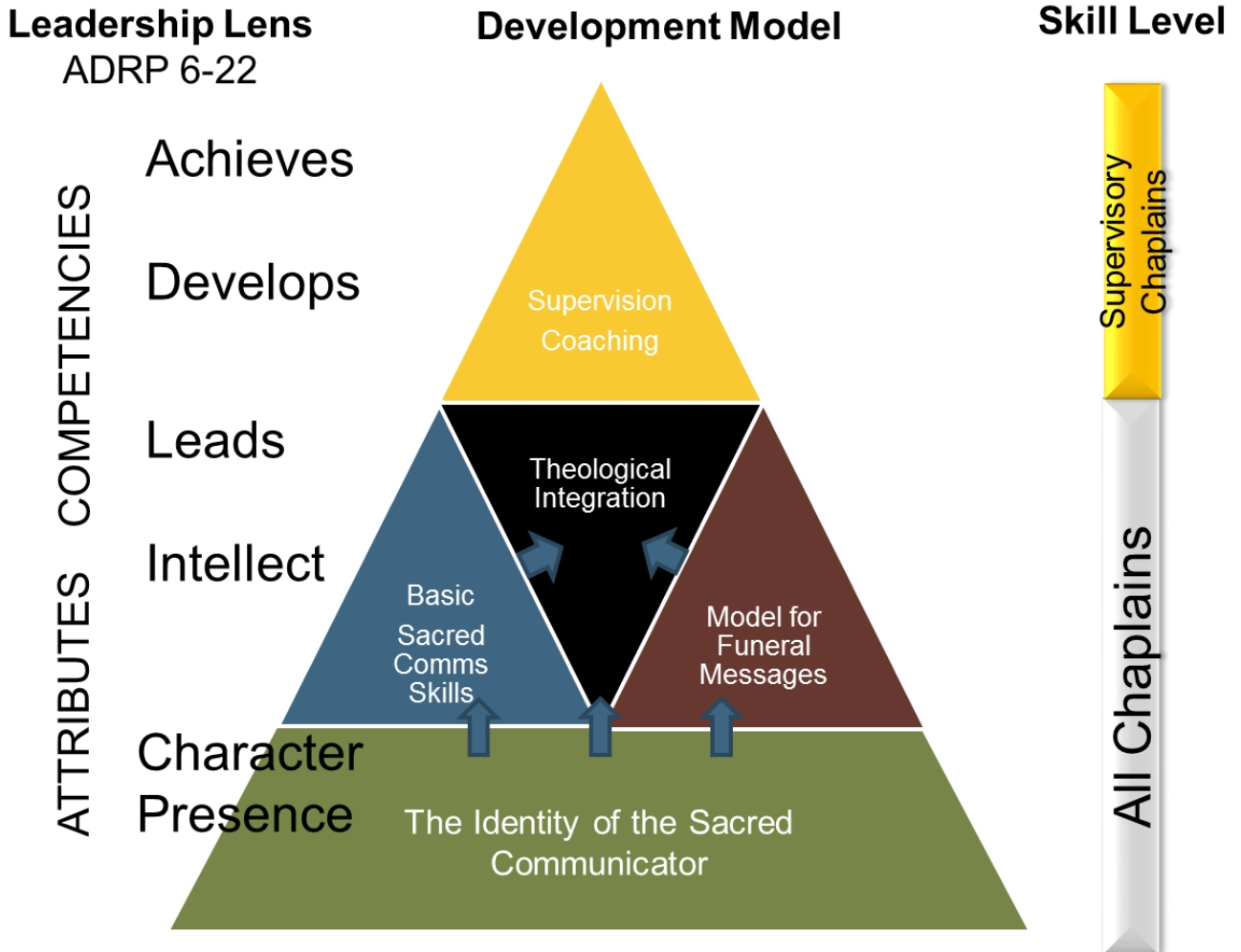
Introductions

- State the central idea or big idea when you are preaching deductively.
- It should flow into your first point
- It should grab attention since you only have the first 30 seconds to attract them to listen
- Create a tension that they want to be answered either from an illustration or rhetoric question.
- Surface a need/ desire that they want answered.

Conclusions

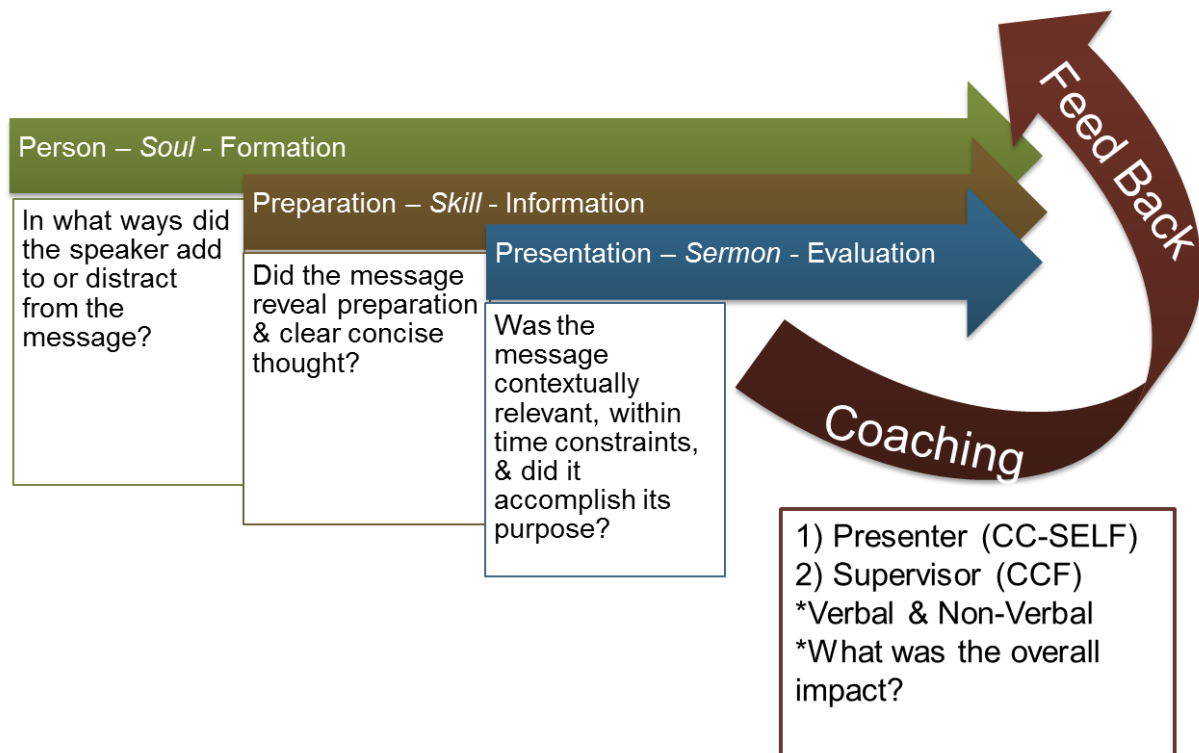
- Summarize what you have preached.
- Use a real life illustration to focus your point
- Provide a sense of finality and challenge them to act.
- Do NOT introduce new material you have to land the plane.
- Conclusions are the last thing the audience hears, so it must be memorable and contain your 'big idea', in fact state it 2-3 times.
- Don't tack on a conclusion, but remember that it is the last thing that they will hear and is the utmost of importance.

Model to Develop Sacred Communication



Army doctrine begins with the profession and the leader. At the heart of leadership is the character and presence of the individual. Leadership Attributes and Competencies work together on the inside to aid the individual in influencing others toward organization goals and mission accomplishment. Effective ministry begins with the person and identity.

SPEAKER ASSESSMENT CYCLE (SAC)



Person -What's going on with me?

- *Life Situations
- *Spiritual Formation
- *Self-Care

Preparation - What am I going to say?

- *Textual Study
- *Manuscript/Outline

Presentation – What was said?

- *From Written to Oral
- *Delivery (What/How message was heard.)

***Coaching Feedback Loop**

Communication Coaching Form (CCF)

USACHCS | CCF 3.0

COMMUNICATION COACHING FORM (CCF) 3.0

Speaker's Name: _____ Presentation Type: _____

Evaluator's Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

MESSAGE: WHAT WAS SAID?

**Use backside of form to capture additional notes.*

What is the POINT? Central Idea (# of times repeated ____)

Introduction/1st sentence:

Body:

Conclusion:

Last phrase spoken/final statement:

What is the PURPOSE? (application)

I want my listeners to (be, know, do)

DELIVERY: HOW WAS IT SAID?

Check off what was good; circle and/or explain what needs work.

1. Voice: conversational tone / volume / speed / intensity / variety / pauses
2. Body Language: posture / eye contact / gestures / movement / facial
3. Presence: sincerity / empathy / conviction / enthusiasm / connection
4. Distractors:

	Average	Good	Excellent
Approach	Friendly/Competent	Engaging	Tone matches context
Context	Aware of military audience & terminology	Situational awareness	Relevant & Applicable
Content	Appropriate to type of presentation	Clear purpose	Creative & Interesting
Introduction	States the central idea or leads into the first point	Creatively gains attention	Surfaces need/desire to listen
Central Idea	Inferred	Clearly stated	Memorably repeated
Organization/Structure	Orderly sequence	Clear points & transitions	Organization supports central idea
Illustrations	Support point	Awaken interest	Compelling/Not distracting
Conclusion	Summarizes message	Provides a sense of finality & challenge	No new distracting ideas added
Delivery	Does not distract from presentation	Poised & Well practiced	Reinforces the presentation with energy & variety

Areas of Strength:

Suggestions for Improvement:

Overall Impact: What was the result? (circle one)

Life changing | Challenging | Encouraging | Interesting | Boring | Irrelevant

HOW TO USE THE COMMUNICATION COACHING FORM (CCF)

1. **MESSAGE: WHAT WAS SAID?** This section is for the speaker to complete. It is designed to help the speaker prepare for a presentation by focusing on the content of the message. The speaker should write down the central idea, the purpose, and the main points of the message. The speaker should also write down the introduction, the body, and the conclusion of the message. The speaker should use this information to prepare for the presentation.

2. **DELIVERY: HOW WAS IT SAID?** This section is for the evaluator to complete. It is designed to help the evaluator provide feedback to the speaker on the delivery of the message. The evaluator should check off what was good and circle and/or explain what needs work.

3. **SAMPLE RUBRIC** This section is for the evaluator to use to provide feedback to the speaker. It is designed to help the evaluator provide feedback to the speaker on the delivery of the message. The evaluator should use this rubric to provide feedback to the speaker on the delivery of the message.

4. **COACHING TIPS** This section is for the evaluator to use to provide feedback to the speaker. It is designed to help the evaluator provide feedback to the speaker on the delivery of the message. The evaluator should use this section to provide feedback to the speaker on the delivery of the message.

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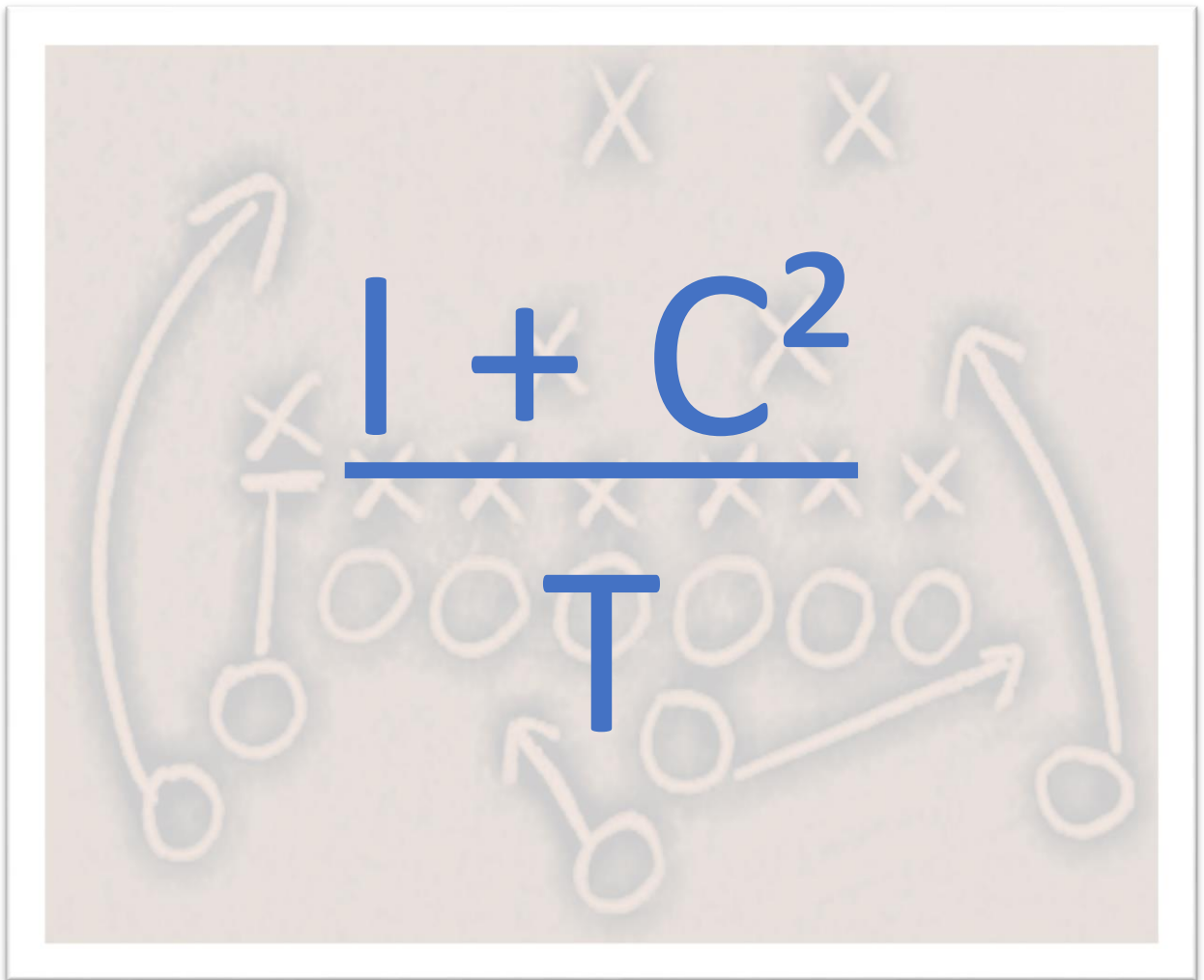
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Click above for CCF Form

Create A Coaching Philosophy



Intentionality + (Coaching x Care)

Time

= produces the Audacious Development of Leaders

5 Communication Coaching Principles



- #1 We evaluate, assess, & work on the things that are important to us
- #2 Sacred Communication is an art and science
- #3 Coaching is not about duplication
- #4 Communication Coaching looks at CONTENT & DELIVERY
- #5 The goal of good coaching is to Improve Future Performance

What makes a Good Coach?



•
•
•
Take time. Be intentional. Give specific feedback.
Ask yourself and them “How can I help?”

Coaching Tips & Ideas

Develop a Plan

*Read

*Share Resources

*Teach/Coach

*Evaluate

*Encourage

What else? Be creative

FIELD SERVICE SET UP

Create Sacred Space Anywhere

How? By using a Chaplain kit and some planning, you can provide quality Religious Support regardless of Time, Location, and Mission. Sometimes you have to get extremely creative.



HONORING THE FALLEN



Memorial Ceremony

Your commands responsibility; patriotic in nature, attendance may or may not be mandatory

Memorial Service

Sensitive to Service Members faith; attendance is voluntary

Military Funeral

1. Chapel Service followed by movement to grave
2. Graveside Service only

CRAFTING THE MEMORIAL MESSAGE

What we say and how we say it during the memorial matters greatly.

Remember, that the situational context matters.

Your message does not have to be original but it must be personal. Use the resources below as a guide to help you to formulate personal messages that reach those in attendance.

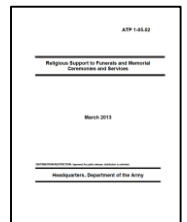
RESOURCES

*ATP 1-05.02

*Chaplain Corps Digital Reference
Religious Support Funerals and Memorial Services

*Honor the Fallen: A Chaplain's Guide

*Dignity With Brevity Model



Click picture for ATP



Click picture for guide

RESOURCES

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